

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of reducing triglyceride levels in an individual in need thereof, comprising administering to said individual a functional beverage, wherein the functional beverage comprises 1 mg to 30 mg/100 ml of at least one catechin selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and stereoisomers thereof, wherein said catechins are derived from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of Benifuuki, Benifudi, Benihomare, Yaeho, Surugawase, Yutakamidori, Kanayamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is produced by extracting tea leaves.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is labeled to be effective for at least one of suppressing allergic rhinitis and effective for improving hyperlipidemia and gallbladder/liver function.

6. (Currently amended) A method of reducing triglyceride levels in an individual in need thereof, comprising administering to said individual a composition comprising an effective amount of at least one catechin selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and stereoisomers thereof, wherein said catechins are derived from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of Benifuuki, Benifudi, Benihomare, Yaeho, Surugawase, Yutakamidori, Kanayamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food/beverage, internal medicine, liniment, nose wash, nose drops, cosmetic or eye drops.